

Florida House of Representatives

Representative Martin David Kiar

District 97

District Office:

6600 University Drive
Parkland, FL 33067
(954) 346-2813
(954) 346-2815 (fax)

Tallahassee Office:

Suite 1003 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300
(850) 487-1588

Email: martin.kiar@myfloridahouse.gov

The following is an Opinion Editorial by Representative Martin David Kiar that is available for publication:

The Florida House and the Florida Senate are currently entertaining a bill that, if approved, would ratify the Seminole Compact with the Seminole Tribe of Florida. The Seminole Compact would permit the Seminole Tribe of Florida to expand gambling at their casinos (such as the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino) and in return, the Seminole Tribe of Florida would be required to provide our state with funding that will likely amount to hundreds of millions of dollars per year.

Our elected state leaders in both parties have consistently promised the people of Florida that any revenue generated by the Seminole Compact would be allocated directly into Florida's education budget. Unfortunately, and contrary to what was promised to the people of Florida, budget work papers recently released by majority party leaders of the Florida House of Representatives and the Florida Senate, appear to show that any state revenues generated from the gambling compact will be diverted into state reserves and not into Florida's already underfunded education budget. This proposed allocation action is very disheartening to me personally and should anger the people of Florida.

Our elected public officials have promised the residents of our state that they would allocate any revenues generated by the Seminole Compact to education and it is disturbing that many of those same elected leaders may break that promise. I am going to continue to attempt to convince those elected majority party leaders that they must keep their promise to the people of Florida and allocate any revenue generated by the Seminole Compact to education as our residents deserve promises made to them to be kept and our children deserve to have the best and most fully funded education possible.

Representative Martin David Kiar represents District 97 in the Florida House of Representatives.